	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/625,666	DEGUCHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joon H. Hwang	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *a telephone interview with Surinder Sachar (Reg. No. 34,423) on 11/9/2006.*

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *45-86 and 94-105 (renumbered as 1-54).*

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

       1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. *09/695,636* .

       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date *8/11/06*

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *20061109* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The applicants requested for reconsideration in the amendment received on

8/23/06.

The pending claims are 43-105.

Response to Amendment

2.   The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 8/23/06 is sufficient to overcome the

rejection of claims 43, 45, 47-51, 53, 59-62, 65-81, 83-86, 91-93, and 96-105 based

upon 35 U.S.C. 102 and claims 44, 46, 52, 54, 57-58, 63-64, 82, 87-90, and 94-95

based upon 35 U.S.C. 103.

Terminal Disclaimer

3.   The terminal disclaimer filed on 8/23/06 disclaiming the terminal portion of any

patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of

U.S. Patent No. 6,578,047 B1 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal

disclaimer has been recorded.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

5.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Surinder Sachar (Reg. No. 34,423) on 11/9/2006.

6.   The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 43-44;

Rewrite claim 45 as follows:

"45. A record medium including a control program causing an inputting unit

having a counter to perform the steps of:

        providing a count value from the counter based on a predetermined clock

signal;

        storing the count value when a user performs a storing operation during a

broadcast;

        communicating the count value stored at the storing the count value step

to an external unit;

        obtaining time information indicating when the user storing operation

occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count value at the

external unit;

        inputting the obtained time information to a searching unit,

        wherein the searching unit searches a database including information

indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at

least the obtained time information; and

providing search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 47 as follows:

"47. An inputting unit comprising:

a counter configured to provide a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

a storage unit configured to store the count value of said counter when a user performs a storing operation during a broadcast;

a connecting portion configured to connect the inputting unit to an external unit; and

a communicating unit configured to communicate the count value stored in said storage unit to the external unit through said connecting portion,

wherein the external unit obtains time information indicating when the user storing operation occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count value, inputs the obtained time information to a searching unit, the searching unit searching a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the obtained time information, and provides search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 48 as follows:

"48. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, wherein the broadcast contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 49 as follows:

"49. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, wherein the user storing operation

during the broadcast occurs when the user determines the broadcast includes

desired contents.";

Rewrite claim 52 as follows:

"52. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, wherein the external unit is an

information terminal unit installed as a public unit.";

Rewrite claim 53 as follows:

"53. An inputting unit comprising:

a counter configured to provide a count value based on a predetermined

clock signal;

storing means for storing the count value of said counter when a user

performs a storing operation during a broadcast;

displaying means for displaying the count value stored in said storing

means; and

communicating means for communicating the count value stored in said

storing means to an external unit,

wherein the external unit obtains time information indicating when the user

storing operation occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count

value, inputs the obtained time information to a searching unit, the searching unit

searching a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast

contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the obtained time

information, and provides search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 55 as follows:

"55. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 54, wherein when the count value is

communicated by said communicating means, a number of spherical members

gradually decreases on one side of said displaying means, and

  wherein when part of the spherical members disappear, remaining ones of

the spherical members move to positions at which the part of the spherical

members disappear from.";

Rewrite claim 56 as follows:

"56. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein said displaying means is

formed in an almost square shape, and

  wherein members representing the count value are arranged in a lattice

shape irrespective of a storing order of entries of the count value stored in said

storing means.";

Rewrite claim 59 as follows:

"59. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein the user storing operation during the broadcast occurs when the user determines the broadcast includes desired contents.";

Rewrite claim 60 as follows:

"60. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein said communicating means communicates the count value to the external unit configured as an information terminal unit installed as a public unit.";

Rewrite claim 61 as follows:

"61. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein the broadcast contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 62 as follows:

"62. An inputting unit comprising:

a counter configured to provide a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing the count value of said counter when a user performs a storing operation during a broadcast;

communicating means for communicating the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit; and

sound generating means for generating a sound corresponding to the

count value stored in said storing means,

wherein the external unit obtains time information indicating when the user

storing operation occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count

value, inputs the obtained time information to a searching unit, the searching unit

searching a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast

contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the obtained time

information, and provides search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 63 as follows:

"63. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein said sound generating

means generates a sound corresponding to the user storing operation when the

count value stored in said storing means exceeds a predetermined value.";

Rewrite claim 64 as follows:

"64. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein said sound generating

means generates a sound when the count value stored in said storing means

exceeds a predetermined value and the user storing operation is performed.";

Rewrite claim 65 as follows:

"65. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein the user storing operation during the broadcast occurs when the user determines the broadcast includes desired contents.";

Rewrite claim 66 as follows:

"66. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein said communicating means communicates the count value to the external unit configured as an information terminal unit installed as a public unit.";

Rewrite claim 67 as follows:

"67. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein the broadcast contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 68 as follows:

"68. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

a counter configured to provide a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

first storing means for storing the count value of said counter when a user performs a storing operation during a broadcast;

identification information generating means for generating predetermined content identification information corresponding to the user storing operation;

second storing means for storing the predetermined content identification information generated by said identification information generating means; and

communicating means for communicating the count value stored in said first storing means and the predetermined content identification information stored in said second storing means to an external unit,

wherein the external unit obtains time information indicating when the user storing operation occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count value, inputs the obtained time information and the predetermined content identification information to a searching unit, the searching unit searching a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcast using at least the obtained time information, and provides search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 69 as follows:

"69. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein said first storing means and said second storing means store the count value and the predetermined content identification information to a common memory disposed in the inputting unit.";

Rewrite claim 70 as follows:

"70. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein said first storing means and said second storing means store the count value and the predetermined

content identification information to discrete memories disposed in the inputting

unit.";

Rewrite claim 71 as follows:

"71. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, further comprising:

at least one button,

wherein said identification information generating means includes means

for detecting different manners the user pressing the at least one button and for

generating different content identification information corresponding to the

different manners the user pressing the at least one button.";

Rewrite claim 72 as follows:

"72. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, further comprising:

displaying means for displaying the count value stored in said first storing

means, wherein said displaying means displays the count value in a different

manner that varies corresponding to the predetermined content identification

information.";

Rewrite claim 73 as follows:

"73. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the user storing operation

during the broadcast occurs when the user determines the broadcast includes

desired broadcast contents.";

Rewrite claim 74 as follows:

"74. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein said communicating means communicates the count value to the external unit configured as an information terminal unit installed as a public unit.";

Rewrite claim 75 as follows:

"75. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the predetermined content identification information identifies whether contents are television broadcast contents or radio broadcast contents.";

Rewrite claim 76 as follows:

"76. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the predetermined content identification information identifies whether contents were broadcasted in a predetermined area or out of the predetermined area.";

Rewrite claim 77 as follows:

"77. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the broadcast contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 78 as follows:

"78. An inputting unit comprising:

a counter configured to provide a count value based on a predetermined

clock signal;

first storing means for storing the count value of said counter when a user

performs a storing operation during a broadcast;

communicating means for communicating with an external unit and

communicating the count value stored in said first storing means to the external

unit; and

second storing means for storing data transmitted from the external unit

through said communicating means,

wherein the external unit obtains time information indicating when the user

storing operation occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count

value, inputs the obtained time information to a searching unit, the searching unit

searching a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast

contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the obtained time

information, and provides search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 79 as follows:

"79. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein the broadcast contents

include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 85 as follows:

"85. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein the user storing operation during the broadcast occurs when the user determines the broadcast includes desired broadcast contents.";

Rewrite claim 86 as follows:

"86. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein said communicating means communicates the count value to the external unit configured as an information terminal unit installed as a public unit.";

Cancel claims 87-93;

Rewrite claim 94 as follows:

"94. An inputting unit comprising:

a counter configured to provide a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing the count value of said counter when a user performs a storing operation during a broadcast;

sound generating means for generating a predetermined sound when the count value is stored to said storing means corresponding to the storing operation performed by the user; and

communicating means for communicating the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein the external unit obtains time information indicating when the user

storing operation occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count

value, inputs the obtained time information to a searching unit, the searching unit

searching a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast

contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the obtained time

information, and provides search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 95 as follows:

"95. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 94, wherein the broadcast information

includes information about contents.";

Rewrite claim 96 as follows:

"96. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter, the method

comprising the steps of:

providing a count value from the counter based on a predetermined clock

signal;

storing the count value when a user performs a storing operation during a

broadcast;

directly connecting the inputting unit to an external unit;

communicating the count value stored at the storing the count value step

to the external unit connected at the connecting step;

obtaining time information indicating when the user storing operation

occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count value at the

external unit;

inputting the obtained time information to a searching unit through the

external unit,

wherein the searching unit searches a database including information

indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at

least the obtained time information; and

providing search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 97 as follows:

"97. The inputting method as set forth in claim 96, wherein the broadcast

contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 98 as follows:

"98. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter, the method

comprising the steps of:

providing a count value from the counter based on a predetermined clock

signal;

storing the count value when a user performs a storing operation during a

broadcast;

displaying the count value stored at the storing the count value step;

communicating the count value stored at the storing the count value step

to an external unit;

obtaining time information from the communicated count value, wherein

the time information indicating when the user storing operation occurred during

the broadcast is obtained at the external unit and then inputted to a searching.

unit, the searching unit searching a database including information indicating

broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the

obtained time information; and

providing search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 99 as follows:

"99. The inputting method as set forth in claim 98, wherein the broadcast

contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 100 as follows:

"100. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter, the method

comprising the steps of:

providing a count value from the counter based on a predetermined clock

signal;

storing the count value when a user performs a storing operation during a

broadcast;

communicating the count value stored in the storing the count value step

to an external unit;

generating a sound corresponding to the count value stored in the storing

the count value step,

wherein time information indicating when the user storing operation

occurred during the broadcast is obtained from the communicated count value at

the external unit and then inputted to a searching unit, the searching unit

searching a database including information indicating broadcast contents and an

associated time of broadcasting using at least the obtained time information; and

providing search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 101 as follows:

"101. The inputting method as set forth in claim 100, wherein the broadcast

contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 102 as follows:

"102. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter, the method

comprising the steps of:

providing a count value from the counter based on a predetermined clock

signal;

storing the count value when a user performs a storing operation during a

broadcast;

generating predetermined identification information corresponding to the storing operation during the broadcast;

storing the predetermined identification information generated in the generating predetermined identification information step;

communicating the count value and the predetermined identification information stored when the user performed the storing operation during the broadcast to an external unit,

wherein time of day information indicating when the user storing operation occurred during the broadcast is obtained from the communicated count value at the external unit and then inputted to a searching unit, the searching unit searching a database including information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of day of broadcasting using at least the obtained time of day information; and

providing search results to the user.";

Rewrite claim 103 as follows:

"103. The inputting method as set forth in claim 102, wherein the broadcast contents include information identifying contents.";

Rewrite claim 104 as follows:

"104. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a count value from the counter based on a predetermined clock signal;

storing the count value when a user performs a storing operation during a broadcast;

communicating the count value stored when the user performed the storing operation during the broadcast to an external unit;

storing data transmitted from the external unit during the communicating step,

wherein time of day information indicating when the user storing operation occurred during the broadcast is obtained from the communicated count value at the external unit and then inputted to a searching unit, the searching unit searching a database including information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of day of broadcasting using at least the obtained time of day information; and

providing search results to the user."; and

Rewrite claim 105 as follows:

"105. The inputting method as set forth in claim 104, wherein the broadcast contents include information identifying contents.".

7.   The pending claims are 45-86 and 94-105.

Allowable Subject Matter

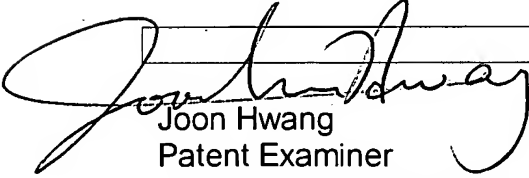8.   Claims 45-86 and 94-105 are allowed.

Claims 45, 47, 53, 62, 68, 78, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, and 104 identify the distinct

features, a count value provided from the counter based on a predetermined clock

signal; storing the count value when a user performs a storing operation during a

broadcast; obtaining time information indicating when the user storing operation

occurred during the broadcast from the communicated count value at the external unit;

searching a database including information indicating broadcast contents and an

associated time of broadcasting using at least the obtained time information; and

providing search results to the user, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art

of records. The closest prior art, Deguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,578,047) disclosing

searching broadcasted contents based on time information stored in a portable device,

fails to suggest the claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other

claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the

dependent and independent claims 45-86 and 94-105 are hereby allowed.

9.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-

4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner=s

supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
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11/9/06